
EAST LA PLATA WILDLIFE AREA

Site Description:

There are a total of 7,159 acres within the boundary of East La Plata Wildlife Area, of which 5,895 acres are public land acres (BLM) and 5,814 acres are federal mineral acres.

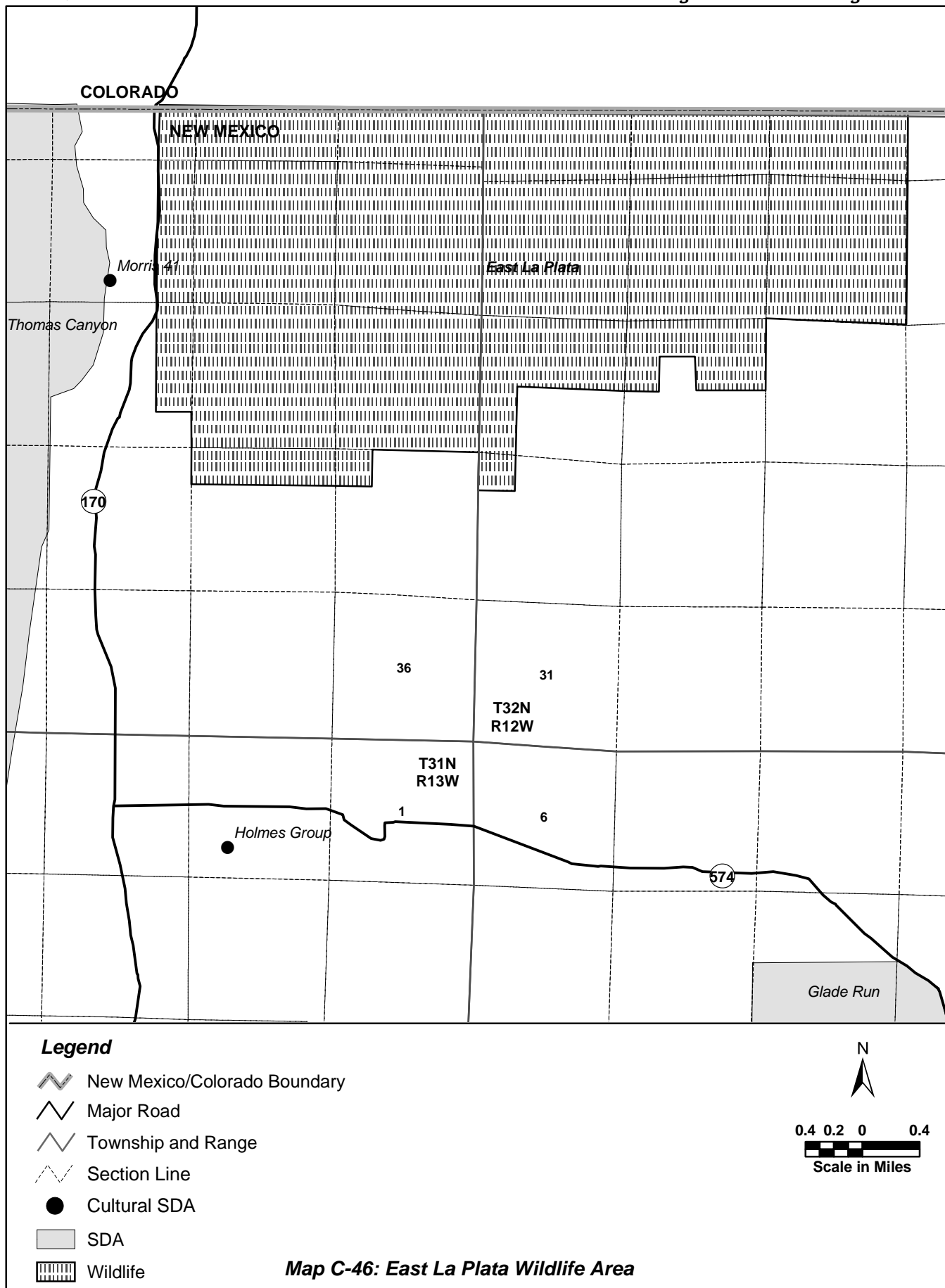
Historically, this area received heavy winter deer use. It now supports about 60 to 100 deer, depending upon the severity of the winter. The existing browse is in poor condition and needs improvement.

Management Goal:

Manage the area to protect and preserve big game habitat.

Management Prescriptions:

1. For new and current leased oil and gas acreage, seasonal timing limitation on drilling and construction from 12/1 through 3/31.
2. Discretionary closure on new oil and gas leases.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry except locatable minerals.
4. Acquire private lands within and immediately adjacent (1-mile radius) to the SDA.
5. Retain public lands.
6. Allow ROWs on a case-by-case basis with special management constraints and mitigation.
7. OHVs limited to maintained roads, designated routes and trails.
8. Implement Class III VRM designation.
9. Close to fuelwood cutting.
10. Manage key browse species to meet the needs of winter deer use. Apply limited fire suppression.
11. Continue livestock grazing retirement on the following grazing allotments: East Stateline, Mine Facility, Coyote Hills, and Cinder Gulch. Continue to authorize livestock grazing on portion of SDA in the Farmington Glade Grazing Allotment.



ENSENADA MESA WILDLIFE AREA

Site Description:

There are a total of 51,280 acres within the boundary of Ensenada Mesa Wildlife Area, of which 43,179 acres are public land acres (BLM) and 45,767 acres are federal mineral acres.

This area provides critical habitat for the FFO's largest antelope herd (approximately 60 animals). In addition, deer and elk use the area both yearlong and seasonally. These populations should benefit from improved habitat conditions.

Management Goal:

Manage the Ensenada Mesa Wildlife Area to protect and preserve wildlife and their habitat.

Management Prescriptions:

1. For new and current oil and gas leases, seasonal timing limitation on drilling and construction from 5/1 through 7/15.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
3. Controlled Surface Use management constraint on leasable and salable minerals.
4. Open for locatable minerals.
5. Acquire inholdings within the SDA.
6. Retain all public lands.
7. Allow ROWs on a case-by-case basis with special management constraints and mitigation.
8. OHVs limited to maintained roads, designated routes and trails.
9. Implement Class III and IV VRM Designation.
10. Allow the cutting/collection of firewood with a valid permit.
11. Manage vegetation to meet the needs of yearlong antelope, deer, and elk use. The primary focus in this SDA will be to increase the resident antelope population to where it is self-sustaining. The forage needs of resident and migratory deer and elk are also of concern. Apply limited fire suppression.
12. Continue permitted livestock grazing.
13. Implement wildlife habitat improvement projects.

